

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05135 182244Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

-----106298 182249Z /64

O R 182145Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2812

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 5135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINT, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS

SUMMARY: TREATY-RELATED COVERAGE WAS MODERATE IN WEEKEND MEDIA, BUT FEATURED US PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ ON COMPENSATION AND NEUTRALITY ISSUES, AND SUNDAY DENIAL BY FOREIGN MINISTER THAT PANAMA HAD AGREED TO A US RIGHT TO INTERVENE AFTER EXPIRATION OF NEW CANAL TREATY. RELATIVELY RESTRAINED COMMENTARY SO FAR FOLLOWS FOREIGN MINISTER IN CONDEMNING US MEDIA FOR THE REPORTS, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER'S FINAL SALLY MAY INDICATE MORE TO COME. END SUMMARY.

1. ITEMS DIRECTLY RELATED TO TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WERE MORE PLENTIFUL IN WEEKEND MEDIA THAN HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY RECENTLY, FEATURING REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ REPORTED IN US MEDIA.

2. "REPUBLICA" (ENGLISH SECTION) JULY 15 REPRINTED PHIL GAYLEY "MIAMI HERALD" ARTICLE (WHICH CITED UNNAMED US OFFICIALS). JULY 16 "ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" BOTH LED WITH AP ARTICLES,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 05135 182244Z

CITING AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ BY NAME, WHICH SAID PANAMA WAS DEMANDING \$1-BILLION INITIAL PAYMENT AND \$200-MILLION ANNUITY, AND THAT THIS DEMAND COULD "TORPEDO" NEGOTIATIONS. SAME ARTICLES ALSO REPORTED PANAMA HAD ACCEPTED A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT CANAL NEUTRALITY AFTER TERMINATION OF NEW CANAL TREATY.

3. GOP-GUIDED "CRITICA" AND "MATUTINO" BOTH FEATURED UPI (WALTE) ARTICLE ALONG SAME LINES. LATTER ACCOMPANIED THIS WITH AN EFE ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT US MEDIA IN GENERAL WERE "ACCUSING" PANAMA OF "TORPEDOING" NEGOTIATIONS. (SAME DAY, "CRITICA" ALSO REPRINTED RECENT "WASHINGTON POST" ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR GABRIEL LEWIS.)

4. FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA ISSUED A STATEMENT ON SATURDAY WHICH DENIED THAT PANAMA HAD AGREED TO GRANT US RIGHT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION WHEN NEW TREATY EXPIRED: "I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A COLONIALIST ASPIRATION THAT PANAMA HAS FLATLY REJECTED AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLZ IS REVIVED BY MALICIOUS NEWS DISPATCHES OF DOUBTFUL ORIGIN." HE REPEATED HIS INSISTENCE IN LAST WEEK'S LETTER TO THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS MOVEMENT THAT THE NEW TREATY MUST BE EXAMINED AS A WHOLE. HE EXPECTED "MORE MALICIOUS PETARDS" FROM THE NEWS MEDIA WHICH, HOWEVER, "WILL EXPLODE AGAINST THE FACTS THE PEOPLE WILL LEARN OF SHORTLY".

5. THIS CAREFULLY-STATED DENIAL (WHICH TOOK NO NOTE OF AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ AS ALLEGED SOURCE OF STORY, AND WHICH FAILS TO MENTION COMPENSATION ASPECTS) APPEARED ON SATURDAY EVENING TELEVISION NEWSCASTS, WHICH ALSO REPORTED AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S SATURDAY AFTERNOON TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DENYING RUMORS THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN BROKEN OFF (FBIS/PANAMA PA 170330Y). GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S DENIAL WAS REPEATED IN IDENTIAL LEAD ARTICLES IN ALL SUNDAY PAPERS, BUT WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 05135 182244Z

FURTHER COMMENT OR REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

6. ALSO ON SUNDAY, "ESTRELLA" PRINTED A LETTER FROM A GROUP OF LAWYERS WHICH, TAKING OFF ON AN EARLIER EDITORIAL ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION (APPLIED BY THE PAPER TO AFRICAN AND ASIAN POLITICS), SAID SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIED IN MODERN LATIN AMERICA AND THAT PANAMA MUST ACCEPT NO OBLIGATIONS TO PERMIT "INTERVENTION", OR OTHER "GUARANTEES", WHICH WOULD CONFLICT WITH THIS. COMMENT: THIS WASSIMILAR IN CONTENT TO, ALBEIT MORE RESTRAINED IN TONE THAN, LAST WEEK'S BLAST FROM THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS MOVEMENT. AT LEAST TWO OF THE SIGNERS HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED FROM EMBASSY RECORDS AS FORMER ARNULFISTA POLITICIANS. HOWEVER, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE PREVIOUS LETTERS, NONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THIS ONE HAS RECENTLY ATTRACTED MUCH NOTICE WITHIN PANAMA AS PUBLIC COMMENTATORS OR CRITICS ON THE TREATY ISSUES. END COMMENT.

7. "MATUTINO" FOR MONDAY, JULY 18 REPRODUCES ON FRONT PAGE A PORTION OF THE "MIAMI HERALD" "AROUND THE AMERICAS" PAGES FROM JULY 17 EDITION, ACCOMPANIED BY A VERBATIM SPANISH TRANSLATION, UNDER HEADLINE "PANAMA DEMANDS TOO HIGH A PRICE". (FYI: "HERALD"

ARTICLE WAS A SHORT FORM OF SATURDAY'S AP AND UPI ITEMS, WHICH AGAIN ATTRIBUTED REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ BY NAME. END FYI.) BOTH THIS PAPER AND "CRITICA" EDITORIALIZED ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS JULY 18. "MATUTINO", CONVOLUTED AS USUAL, CONDEMNED "FIFTH COLUMNISTS" AND UNSPECIFIED PROVACATEURS SEEKING FUTILELY TO ENGENDER DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE. "CRITICA" REHASHED GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S DENIAL AND CONDEMNED NORTH AMERICAN NEWS AGENCIES. SEMI-INDEPENDENTS CARRY NOTHING FURTHER ON JULY 18, EITHER NEWS OR COMMENT.

8. ALL PAPERS DURING WEEKEND CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT FROM UNIONS THAT AFSCME LEADERS SATURNIN MAUGE AND LUIS ANDERSON DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON SUNDAY TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP ON LABOR ASPECTS OF TREATY. ARTICLE SAID THEY WOULD BE CONSULTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PANAMA 05135 182244Z

WITH AFL-CIO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, AND WOULD BE MAKING CONCURRENT EFFORT TO SECURE EXTENSION OF US MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE TO CANAL ZONE. WILLIAM SINCLAIR'S WEEKLY COLUMN IN SUNDAY "STAR AND HERALD" SAYS AFL-CIO HAS ENDORSED OPTION FOR EMPLOYEES TO SELECT EITHER CONTINUATION OF US CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT OR PANAMANIAN SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE UNDER NEW TREATY (COPY POUCHED ARA/PAN).

9. COMMENT: IT IS NOTABLE THAT, DESPITE ATTRIBUTION OF US MEDIA REPORTS TO AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ, GONZALEZ-REVILLA AND EDITORIAL WRITERS FOLLOWING HIS LEAD HAVE REFRAINED FROM LINKING HIS NAME DIRECTLY TO THEIR DENIALS OF THE "INTERVENTION" PART OF THE STORY. NOR HAVE THEY DEALT DIRECTLY WITH THE COMPENSATION ASPECT, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON CONDEMNING THE US MEDIA THAT CARRIED THE STORY AS A WHOLE. GONZALEZ-REVILLA'S FINAL REFERENCE TO "THE FACTS THE PEOPLE WILL LEARN OF SHORTLY", WITH ITS PORTENTOUS OVERTONES, MAY BE A DELIBERATE INDICATION THAT THE WEEKEND EXCHANGE OF CHARGE AND COUNTER-CHARGE HAS NOT YET RUN ITS COURSE.
GONZALEZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, NEUTRALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770256-0538
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770747/aaaabomo.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab8b1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1829869
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS SUMMARY: TREATY-RELATED COVERAGE WAS MODERATE IN WEEKEND MEDIA, BUT FEATURED US PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab8b1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009